

As author of Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act, Slaughter Says Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs is Vital

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today invited Western New Yorkers to properly dispose of unused prescription drugs by bringing them to one of 8 locations across Monroe County or 13 locations across Erie and Niagara Counties as part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday.

On Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time, Western New Yorkers will be able to drop off their expired, unused, and unwanted pills at sites across the country free of charge, no questions asked. By doing so, they will be helping prevent drug abuse and theft as well as reduce the contamination of our local water supply that comes from the improper disposal of prescription drugs.

A list of locations is included below.

"The need for a safe drug disposal program has never been greater, which is why I'm so pleased to encourage everyone to take part in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day this Saturday," said Slaughter. "I invite everyone to take a look in their medicine cabinets and bring any unused or expired drugs to one of the participating locations. Every other alternative to these drop-off sites turns out to be a bad one: flushing drugs down the toilet contaminates our water supply and keeping them in your medicine cabinet can endanger children or provide an unnecessary temptation that can result in accidental overdose, abuse or death. We've even found that unused pharmaceuticals place a bulls-eye on the homes of the elderly for thieves. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is an excellent opportunity that I hope won't be missed."

Slaughter joins the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in encouraging Americans to use secure medicine take-back programs to return drugs for environmentally sound disposal.

Americans participating in DEA's two previous National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

events turned in more than 309 tons of pills at more than 5,300 sites manned by over 3,800 federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

The Risks of Improper Disposal

Contaminating The Local Water Supply Improper disposal of unwanted prescriptions into our nation's waterways has contaminated the local water supply. In 2002, the United States Geological Survey found that 80 percent of streams and 93 percent of groundwater was contaminated with at least one pharmaceutical. In 2008, an investigation found that at least 46 million Americans are exposed to prescription drugs through their drinking water.

Temptation for Abuse Prescription drugs that languish in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse, creating a public health crisis. The rate of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. today is at an alarmingly high level—two-and-a-half times more people currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants combined, according to the [recently](#)

[released 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#)

. The same study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Slaughter's Leadership

In September, Slaughter introduced H.R. 2939, the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act, legislation that would provide Americans with a convenient way to safely dispose of their pharmaceuticals and ensure that they are kept out of drinking water and out of the hands of unsuspecting children or criminals on an everyday basis. Specifically, it would set up a nonprofit corporation financed by pharmaceutical producers which would be responsible for establishing comprehensive drug take-back programs in every state. The bill would also set up a

commission to develop a strategy to prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from polluting our waterways and environments from production to disposal.

[For more on the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act, click here](#) .

[To view a larger version of the chart below, click here.](#)

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Western New York Drop-Off Sites

MONROE COUNTY

FRONTIER FIELD	1 MORRIS SILVER WAY	ROCHESTER	NY, 14608
GATES PD	1605 BUFFALO RD.	ROCHESTER	NY, 14604
BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	2300 ELMWOOD AVE.	ROCHESTER	NY, 14618
GREECE POLICE DEPARTMENT	400 ISLAND COTTAGE RD.	ROCHESTER	NY, 14612
MONROE COUNTY ECOPARK	10 AVION DR.	ROCHESTER	NY, 14624
EAST ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT	254 W. IVY ST.	EAST ROCHESTER	NY, 14445
WWTP	226 PHILLIPS RD.	WEBSTER	NY, 14580
FAIRPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT	31 S MAIN ST.	FAIRPORT	NY, 14450

ERIE COUNTY

CAZENOVIA PARK LIBRARY	155 CAZENOVIA ST.	BUFFALO	NY, 14211
TRUE BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	907 E. FERRY ST.	BUFFALO	NY, 14211
D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE	320 PORTER AVE.	BUFFALO	NY, 14201
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1041	533 AMHERST ST.	BUFFALO	NY, 14207
KENMORE MERCY HOSPITAL	2950 ELMWOOD AVE.	KENMORE	NY, 14217
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL	2805 HARLEM RD.	BUFFALO	NY, 14227
WEST SENECA SENIOR CENTER	4620 SENECA ST.	WEST SENECA	NY, 14224
MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL	1540 MAPLE RD.	WILLIAMSVILLE	NY, 14221
KENMORE MERCY HOSPITAL	2950 ELMWOOD AVE.	KENMORE	NY, 14217
GRAND ISLAND TOWN HALL	2255 BASELINE RD.	GRAND ISLAND	NY, 14072

NIAGARA COUNTY

SOUTH JR. HIGH SCHOOL	1300 WALNUT AVE.	NIAGARA FALLS	NY, 14301
MT. ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL	5300 MILITARY RD.	LEWISTON	NY, 14092
DEGRAFF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	445 TREMONT ST.	NORTH TONAWANDA	NY, 14120
DEGRAFF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	445 TREMONT ST.	NORTH TONAWANDA	NY, 14120

Provided by the Office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter